

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants : Hassan Serhan et al.  
Serial No. : 10/676,869 Confirmation No. 7992  
Filed : September 30, 2003  
For : METHODS AND DEVICES TO REPLACE SPINAL DISC NUCLEUS PULPOSUS  
  
Examiner : Annette R. Reimers  
Art Unit : 3733

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

Dear Sir:

This correspondence is in response to the Restriction Requirement mailed January 19, 2007. Applicants hereby elect, with traverse, Group I, claims 1-7 and 11-15 drawn to a method of augmenting or replacing the nucleus pulposus, classified in class 623, subclass 17.14. Applicants submit that the burden on Applicants to file and prosecute another patent application outweighs any additional searching burden on the Examiner.

Early consideration of this request is appreciated and should the Examiner have any questions or wish to discuss, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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